

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough examination of the present application as evidenced by the Office Action. Applicant has carefully examined the cited references and have amended independent Claims 1 and 17 to include recitations that correspond to Claim 6 and, thereby, further patentably distinguish the cited references. Claim 7 has been amended to depend from Claim 1 instead of Claim 6. Claims 6 and 19 have been canceled. Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Status of the Claims:

Claims 1-5 and 7-18 are pending following this Amendment. 1-5, 7-10, 13-14, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,363,089 to Goldenberg ("Goldenberg") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,798,649 to Olodort et al. ("Olodort"). Claims 11-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Goldenberg in view of Olodort and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,966,777 to Jantschek ("Jantschek"). Claims 15, 17, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Goldenberg in view of Olodort and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,466,202 to Suso et al. ("Suso").

Amended Independent Claim 1:

Claim 1 has been amended to include recitations from Claim 6 (canceled), and now recites:

1. A portable electronic device comprising:
 - a first part comprising electrical circuits and having an exterior side, an interior side, and top and bottom sides;
 - a second part comprising electrical circuits and having an exterior side, an interior side and top and bottom sides;
 - at least one hinge connecting the bottom sides of the first and second parts to each other and allowing rotation of one of the first and second parts approximately 360 degrees relative to the other of the first and second parts;
 - a first set of flexible electrical conductors connected to the first part at the exterior side adjacent the bottom side thereof and connected to the second part at the interior side adjacent the bottom side thereof; and

a second set of flexible electrical conductors connected to the second part at the exterior side adjacent the bottom side thereof and connected to the first part at the interior side adjacent the bottom side thereof. (Emphasis added).

Accordingly, Claim 1 recites *inter alia* that a first set of flexible electrical conductors are connected to the first part at the exterior side adjacent the bottom side thereof and are connected to the second part at the interior side adjacent the bottom side thereof, and a second set of flexible electrical conductors are connected to the second part at the exterior side adjacent the bottom side thereof and are connected to the first part at the interior side adjacent the bottom side thereof.

The Office Action on page 4 concedes that the above-underlined recitations of Claim 1 are not taught or suggested by Goldenberg. However, the Office Action suggests, with regard to original Claim 6 now incorporated into amended Claim 1, that Olodort discloses the above-lined recitations at column 10, lines 50-67, and column 11, lines 1-25. The cited portions of Olodort are repeated below along with the referenced FIG. 7A:

Two groups (first and second groups) of conductive strips may be fixed on the inner surface of support plate 730 (which faces the bottom sides of the keyboard sections in the unfolded configuration) and a first and a second corresponding group of conductive strips may be attached to the bottom side of the first and second keyboard sections respectively. An example of this arrangement is shown in FIG. 7A. In the unfolded configuration, the first corresponding group of conductive strips on the first keyboard section (e.g., strips 752A in FIG. 7A) electrically contacts the first group of conductive strips (e.g., strips 758) on the inner surface of support plate 730, thereby allowing for electrical connection of signals between the first keyboard section (e.g., section 752 of FIG. 7A) and a keyboard controller which scans the electrical matrix of keyswitches in each section, such as keyboard controller 760 shown in FIG. 7A. (Olodort, column 10, lines 50-66, emphasis added)

Similarly, the second corresponding group of conductive strips (e.g., strips 754A of FIG. 7A) on the second keyboard section (e.g., section 754) electrically contacts the second group of conductive strips (e.g., strips 756) on the inner surface of support plate 730, thereby allowing for electrical connection of signals between the second keyboard section and the keyboard controller (e.g., controller 760 of FIG. 7A). (Olodort, column 10, line 66 - column 11, line 25)

FIG. 7A of Olodort

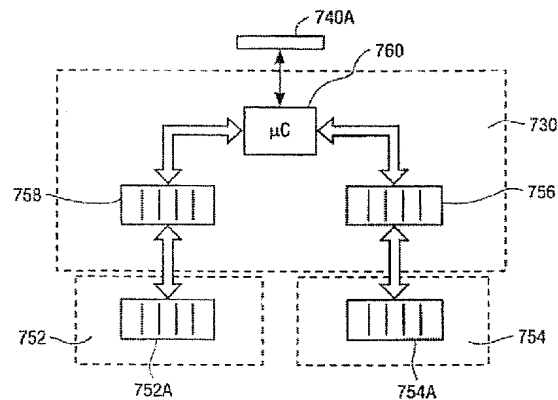


FIG. 7A

Consequently, the cited portion of Olodort describes that a first and a second group of conductive strips are attached to the same side of a first part ("inner surface of the support plate 730"), and a first and a second corresponding group of conductive strips are attached to the same side of a second and third part ("bottom side of the first and second keyboard sections"). When the keyboard sections are unfolded, the first group of conductive strips connect "the inner surface of the support plate 730" to the "bottom side" of the "first keyboard section", and the second group of conductive strips connect "the inner surface of the support plate 730" to the "bottom side" of the "second keyboard section".

In sharp contrast, Claim 1 recites *inter alia* that the first set of flexible electrical conductors are connected to the first part at the exterior side adjacent the bottom side thereof and are connected to the second part at the interior side adjacent the bottom side thereof, and a second set of flexible electrical conductors are connected to the second part at the exterior side adjacent the bottom side thereof and are connected to the first part at the interior side adjacent the bottom side thereof. Neither the cited portion nor elsewhere does Olodort disclose these emphasized recitations of Claim 1.

Consequently, Applicant submits that amended Claim 1 is patentable over Goldenberg in view of Olodort. Reconsideration and allowance of amended Claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Amended Independent Claim 17:

Claim 17 has been amended to recite *inter alia* that a first set of flexible electrical conductors are connected to the first part at the exterior side adjacent the bottom side thereof and are connected to the second part at the interior side adjacent the bottom side thereof, and a second set of flexible electrical conductors are connected to the second part at the exterior side adjacent the bottom side thereof and are connected to the first part at the interior side adjacent the bottom side thereof.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that amended Claim 17 is patentable over Goldenberg in view of Olodort for at least the reason explained above with regard to amended Claim 1. The Office Action also cites Suso for its description of an image capturing device. Applicants submit that Suso fails to teach or suggest these emphasized recitations of amended Claim 17 that are missing from Goldenberg and Olodort.

Consequently, Applicant submits that amended Claim 17 is patentable over Goldenberg in view of Olodort and Suso. Reconsideration and allowance of amended Claim 17 is respectfully requested.

Dependent Claims 2-5, 7-16, and 18:

Dependent Claims 2-5, 7-16, and 18 are patentable at least per the patentability of the independent claims from which they depend.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all rejections and the allowance of all claims in due course. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by telephone at (919) 854-1400.

In re: Marcus Soderlund
Serial No.: 10/535,033
Filed: May 13, 2005
Page 10

Respectfully submitted,



David K. Purks
Registration No. 40,133
Attorney for Applicant(s)

USPTO Customer No. 54414
Myers Bigel Sibley & Sajovec, P.A.
P. O. Box 37428
Raleigh, North Carolina 27627
Telephone: 919/854-1400
Facsimile: 919/854-1401

CERTIFICATION OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via the Office electronic filing system in accordance with § 1.6(a)(4) to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on July 31, 2007.



Susan Freedman